



Date: September 30, 2015

Memo To: Town of Bluffton Town Council; Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors; Marc Orlando, Town Manager

From: David Nelems, Don Ryan Center for Innovation Executive Director

RE: SEPTEMBER 2015 DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION REPORT

CENTER OPERATIONS

- Continuing to work with SmartMarketing to **promote the DRCI**.
- **Successful DRCI Inaugural golf tournament.** 100 golfer, 55 sponsors.
- Working with finance department to close out the **finance side of the golf tournament**.
- Approved several new submissions to **LowcountryWORKS.com**.
- **Graduated three companies** (mobiPET, Village Features and Page1 Media)
- New **monthly education sessions** began again in September.
- Met with **HR representatives from eviCore** about the job responsibilities of a possible assistant director.
- Closed out the **SC Department of Innovation grant**.
- Started accepting credit cards on the DRCI site for **memberships and monthly event registration**.
- Met with a possible **angel /seed resource** out of Beaufort.

INNOVATORS

- Currently there are **10 innovators** in the Center. We now have **12 graduates**.
- Met with **every innovator at least once** (some multiple times) during the month. A lot of progress with each company.
- Launched **Le Dome** websites.
- Coordinating prototype development for **Elongator**.
- Helping **Scionz** with testing protocols for use at **Waddell Mariculture Center**.
- Helps **mobiPET** prepare for a **pitch event in Savannah**.
- Met with **two potential innovators**.
- Attended healthcare meeting for local reps with and on behalf of **Freedom Toilet Seat**.
- **Videoconferences with Clemson** team for Le Dome and QRVIN

OUTREACH AND STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

- Began year two of partnership with **SCAD** in entrepreneurship sessions. 40 students attended this kick off session. Event was recorded for on demand viewing in **Hong Kong, Paris and Atlanta** campuses.
- Hosted second meeting of the **Beaufort County School District** for their “Enterprise Design” teachers in all County High Schools.
- Working on a **virtual field trip program** with entrepreneurs to be webcast to all high schools.
- Placed a **Bluffton High School student as an intern** with CERAS. This is in conjunction with BCSD.
- Spoke at the **Beaufort Regional Chamber** of Commerce Annual Business Expo.
- Looking at various **regional outreach partnerships** that will expand and strengthen the DRCI.
- Presented the DRCI to the **HHIEDC**.
- Presented the DRCI to the **Greater Island Council Regional Committee**.
- Conversations with **new director at Hartsville, SC** incubator.

TOWN OF BLUFFTON OPERATIONS

- Attended **Senior Staff** meetings.
- Various meetings with **Town Manager**.
- Worked with Tom Sunday and Lori Mclean to rate and choose a vendor for the **revision of the Town of Bluffton web site**.
- Participated in the **Candidates briefing**.